

San Diego DX Club Bulletin

February 2020



FEBRUARY PROGRAM

DXpedition to Alaska

By: Jim K6ZH

MEETING NOTICE:

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020

JOIN US AT THE SIZZLER, 3755 Murphy Canyon Road,

San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 278-6988

SOCIAL HOUR, 5:00 P.M. DINNER, 5:30 P.M.

MEETING, 6:30 P.M

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From the Prez . . .

Ron, N6XT

On Wednesday February 26th, 7P.M., San Diego DX Club will see the DXpedition to Alaska Program!

We still need 12 more volunteers for the registration table at the DX Convention on April 24th and 25th, (Friday and Saturday). Volunteers will work in 3 hour blocks. I will again have the sign-up sheet at the meeting. This benefits our club financially from us taking part in the registrations. I hope to see you all at the next meeting on February 26th.



Ron, N6XT



Secretary/Treasurer Reports

Randy, KQ6RS

Meeting Minutes January 22, 2020

At 6:30 P.M. Ron Rosson, N6XT, called the meeting to order. 43 members and six guests were in attendance. Our guests were Gregory De Hoogh, N6PM, Baltazar Rodriguez, KM6EMP, Gerald Kazmierkiewicz, W6SQC, Steve Belasco, N1BKB (his 2nd time as a guest), Richard Martin, W6WVW, Randy Houk, KI6DGU (his 2nd time as a guest and he was voted in as a new member at the meeting).

The November 2019 Treasurer report and meeting minutes were approved.

At 6:50 P.M. the presentation "VP6R - Pitcairn Island DXpedition" was delivered by Arnie Shatz, N6HC.

At 8:02 P.M. we started the round table discussion

At 8:09 P.M. The meeting was adjourned.

Treasurer's Report

Income for January: \$190.00 membership dues

Expenses for January: \$13.09 speaker's dinner

Balance on 2/8/2020: \$5,647.65



Randy, KQ6RS

SDDXC Contest Results

By John, K6AM

2019 CQ WPX PHONE DX CONTEST

CLASS	CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	MLTS	FINISH
SO HP ALL	NO6T @WA6TQT KI6RRN op	5,156,494	3,155	839	#1 W6 #10 US
M2	WQ6X N6KI WQ6X W6DKW N6ERD WM6Y WF6L W2PWS NN6X N6EEG K6GO NA6MB N6CY	3,547,600	2,597	724	#2 W6 #4 US
SO LP ALL	WN6K	275,670	627	270	#1 W6 #17 US
SO HP ALL	W6JBR	57,677	207	137	



John, K6AM

February Program

By Pat, WA6MHZ

DXpedition to Alaska

By: Jim, K6ZH



Last year, several San Diego DX Club members traveled to Kenai, Alaska and operated in major contests from super-station KL7RA. Specifically: Eric, NC6K ventured there for CQ WPX CW last May; Marko, N5ZO was there for CQ WW SSB in October; and Eric, Jim, K6ZH and Bud, N7CW operated during CQ WW CW in November. Jim will take the lead on describing the amazing KL7RA station, discussing a bit about its location and history, and presenting results of some of the recent contest activities there. Being that far north, KL7RA is more susceptible than many QTHs to geo-magnetic storm issues. But since it's one of the few stations active in CQ Zone 1, it does tend to attract the pileups!

Pat, WA6MHZ

THE SDDXC TOP 10

By John, K6AM



TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 10 METERS

2/20	2/18	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD
	CHG					
1.	1.	NØRR 40	329	340	340	+2
2.	2.	K6AM 40	322	330	331	-
3.	3.	N6CW 40	?	297	325	-
4.	4.	W6YI 40	306	313	320	-
5.	5.	K6XT 40	290	298	298	-13
6.	7.	KØXB 40	285	291	297	-
7.	9.	K6ZH 40	268	275	287	-
8.	8.	WN6K 40	258	264	287	-1
9.	10.	N7CW 40	258	258	284	-

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 40 METERS

2/20	2/18	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD
	CHG					
1.	1.	NØRR 40	338	351	351	-
2.	2.	W6YI 40	335	340	341	-
3.	3.	K6XT 40	336	340	340	-
4.	4.	K6AM 40	330	337	338	-
5.	5.	N6CW 40	?	302	332	-
6.	6.	N7CW 40	320	320	329	-
7.	7.	K6ZH 39	290	296	305	-
8.	8.	WN6K 40	238	244	259	-
9.	10.	KØXB 40	247	249	255	-

We are seeing more error corrections than actual score changes this time. Things have settled in for the long slumber with most gains slowing to a stop. 40 remains active but I suspect many of you are on pause.

Each month, we will publish top ten lists for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, 80, 20, 15 meters, and then the WARC bands. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR 2019

Congratulations to our new 2019 ROTY, Ryan Salazar, W6ZAR. He popped onto the new ladder with 96 new ones during the year. Ryan will receive the customary certificate in March when I get back from the Cayman Islands. You can see where you are on the latest ladder on our web site as soon as it is posted.

John, K6AM

From the Editor

Bob, K9RHY



How I Almost Went to Mongolia

Tip of the Hat to: Rob, WA3IHV for identifying the "mystery" entity in last month's SDDXC Bulletin. Rob identified the entity as a polar relay. He said: "Note the "metal can" to resist electromagnetic interference which could potentially cause errors. My initial polar relays (I used 2 in my RTTY station) had plastic covers.



This adventure started before Thanksgiving last year. It's currently on hold because of the Corona Virus (COVID -19); on-hold but still being planned.

I've always wanted to go to Mongolia. My first Mongolian OSO was in, as I recollect, about 1965. The QSO was on CW with JT1AA. He gave his name as "Sandag" and his QTH as Ulaanbaatar. I think that was one of first (or perhaps even my first) with CQ Magazine's elusive Zone 23. That QSO totally pumped up a 19-year-old mid-western DXer!

Fast forward to 1995. The XYL and I booked a trip to Asia to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary. We went to Japan, China, Hong Kong and Macau while making several other stops. That was 24 years ago and so much has changed since then.

Just think about the airport in Beijing (PEK) in 1995. For those who travelled through China before the end of the Cultural Revolution but after the door was opened to the USA, the only available airport was PEK in downtown Beijing. I remember my first trip to Beijing vividly: a city of many millions served by an international airport that was literally in the dark. A one-story terminal building with green peeling paint. Occasional fluorescent light fixtures dangling from the ceiling. Flight information filled in – by hand - on green chalkboards. (And there were only a handful of flights at that.) Teenage soldiers with bad haircuts everywhere in badly-fitting, baggy green uniforms. Much has changed since.

We found a taxi that would take us to the Holiday Inn about a 30-minute drive from the airport. Exhausted from the trip, we went to bed and woke up the next morning to a fog so thick we couldn't see the opposite side of the street. We later learned that the "fog" was really coal smoke. Coal smoke was a problem for China then and remains a lesser problem today. 21 ½ million people heating their homes and cooking with coal creates a LOT of coal smoke. Coal was delivered around the clock in the form of circular blocks on thousands bicycles. The coal smoke made your eyes burn and your nose run.. (I also experienced the same type of air pollution – just not as severe – in London some years before.)



In fact, the coal smoke almost caused Beijing to lose its bid for the 2008 Summer Olympics. The Mayor saved the day (while simultaneously alienating almost the entire population of Beijing) by temporarily halting heating and cooking with coal while the Olympic committee visited. Those cold and hungry days (think cold instant noodles) caused a lot of griping that went unseen by the international press and the Olympic committee that ultimately selected Beijing for the Games.

After visiting as a tourist, I subsequently started doing business in China, opening offices in Beijing and Shanghai and hiring a number of fantastic Chinese employees. Of course, I travelled between Beijing and San Diego quite frequently, flying (most frequently) through SFO.

While at the United Lounge (sometimes the First Class lounge when the company was picking up the tab), I ran (on more than one occasion) into several CAT executives who were doing business in Mongolia. CAT products were widely used in construction and energy exploration projects. I stuffed future travel plans into the back of my mind and went about my business.

When I started planning my trip to Mongolia in earnest, the first consideration was transportation. How does one get to Mongolia? Actually, pretty easily. Fly to Beijing and connect on to Ulaanbaatar. If I was going to fly to China, I gave some serious thought of stopping in Singapore (about my favorite place on the planet) to visit with friends and colleagues and enjoy some of the best food in the world (pepper crab, lobster salad, chili crab, Hainese chicken, etc. all washed down with a cold Tiger beer). But when I checked with my dear friend Emily, she sent me some pictures that blew that idea away:



After seeing this and reading that there had been several fatalities attributed to the virus, I decided that if I went (now in serious doubt) my best bet would be through Beijing direct from SFO. United would whisk me to Beijing on miles. Connecting to Chinggis Khaan International Airport would set me back about \$140.00. But there are no flights available now (due to the virus)! Another reason to wait.

I also looked into accommodations. When in Mongolia, stay in a Yurt. Surprise! Airbnb Mongolia is happy to rent you a Yurt. They are available for US\$65.00 per night. That was for me! BUT that's about as



far as I could go under the circumstances.

I'm not giving up on visiting Mongolia! I looked into ham licensing and the procedure is straightforward, quick and inexpensive. When I go, I'll take a mini rig with me (IC-7300) and try DXing from zone 23.

My trip won't be a DXpedition, just a vacation with some hamming thrown in. But I'm thinking ahead. Some years ago, the XYL and I were visited by Yuri,

UA9YE from Barnaul in Siberia. Aeroflot can fly me from Ulaanbaatar to Barnaul and then to Tokyo for the trip home. A stop in San Diego on my way home would give me a chance to visit with my many and dear friends in SoCAL and the SDDXC. With the right timing, this might give me a chance to present a program about DXing from Mongolia. We'll see!

73,

Bob, K9RHY